

BATGIRL COMES  
TO GOTHAM CITY

STARRING

JAN. NO. 369



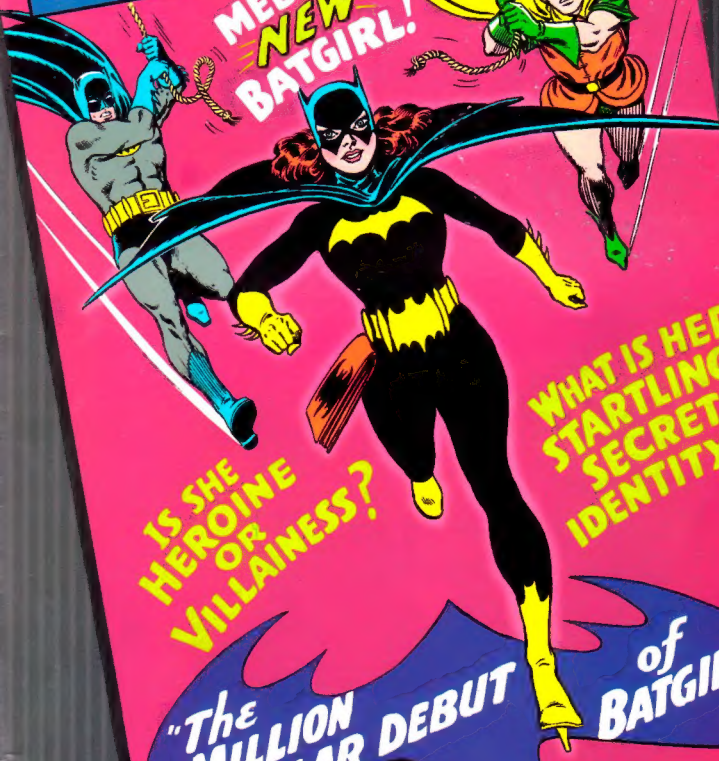
DC  
NATIONAL COMICS

# DETECTIVE COMICS

# BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

MEET THE  
**NEW**  
BATGIRL!



IS SHE  
HEROINE  
OR  
VILLAINESS?

WHAT IS HER  
STARTLING  
SECRET  
IDENTITY?

"The  
MILLION  
DOLLAR DEBUT

of  
BATGIRL!"

*infantino  
anderson*



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10 >

A thousand years ago, the state of the art that combines words and pictures was the illuminated manuscript - a carefully crafted, fragile document telling a tale only a select few would ever be privileged to read. A thousand years from now, the art form may evolve so that each of us takes the raw electrons from the air and turns them into our own fantasies, moving and speaking on command for the world to access. In between those forms, we have comics.

DC Comics celebrates the millennium mark by offering you the best and most vital examples of our art form. This millennium collection represents our most creative, most cataclysmic and most collectible issues for your shelf.

Paul Levitz

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

## REMEMBERING THE MILLENNIUM

**1966 saw America in the grip of Batmania.** The colorful, lighthearted ABC-TV series made its debut in January of that year and was an immediate and resounding success. The actors played their parts with surprisingly straight faces, and the comics-come-to-life appealed to young and old alike — so much so that they continued to shape the general public's perception of comics for decades after.

One of the keys to the show's success was its never-ending parade of new, wildly-costumed characters. The producers were always hungry for more characters to add to the mix, and they knew a sure thing when they saw one. So when editor Julius Schwartz sent them an advance copy of DETECTIVE COMICS #359, the decision was made: Batgirl would be added to the show.

### DETECTIVE COMICS #359 *Batgirl Comes to Gotham City*

Of course, the executives behind the TV show were probably not aware that this was not the original Batgirl, or that this was yet another example of Schwartz's Silver Age specialty of successfully reinventing old characters.

When Julius Schwartz was handed BATMAN and DETECTIVE COMICS a few years earlier, he jettisoned all the hangers-on who had accumulated in the 1950s during the tenure of editor Jack Schiff. Among those characters were Batwoman, Batgirl, Bat-Mite, and Ace the Bathound. Now, two and a half years after Schwartz unveiled the "New Look" Batman, he felt the time was right for a new Batgirl. Schwartz and writer Gardner Fox came up with Barbara Gordon, daughter of Commissioner James Gordon, while Carmine Infantino gave her a sleek, mod look. With 1965 drawing to a close, Batgirl burst onto the scene.

Her first opponent was Killer Moth, not seen in the feature since 1951, and she dispatched him with ease. Batgirl was a success in the comics, making numerous guest appearances and earning an occasional backup feature in DETECTIVE.

Batgirl's TV debut, in September 1967, at the beginning of the third season of the Batman show, was a more qualified success. Despite actress Yvonne Craig's



continued on inside back cover →

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# BATMAN

With ROBIN The Boy Wonder

INTRODUCING  
THE NEW  
BATGIRL



OUT OF THE SUPER-STAR STUDDED FIRMAMENT OF GOTHAM CITY, WHERE BATMAN AND ROBIN SHINE SUPREME AS MASKED MANHUNTERS-- BURSTS A BRAND NEW LUMINARY-- BATGIRL! AND LIKE THAT VERY BATMAN AFTER WHOM SHE MODELS HERSELF-- SHE TOO BATTLES CRIME AND INJUSTICE IN A MANNER WONDROUS ENOUGH FOR NEWSPAPERS TO PROCLAIM IN BANNER HEADLINES--

## "THE MILLION DOLLAR DEBUT OF BATGIRL!"

NOW THAT I'VE GOT BATGIRL OUT OF THE WAY, I CAN GIVE MY FULL ATTENTION TO MY OLD NEMESIS, BATMAN!

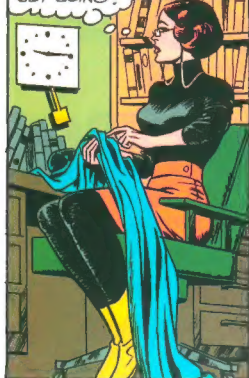
WHO IS THIS NEW BATGIRL WHO SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN OVER MY CRIME-FIGHTING TERRITORY?





IN THE **GOTHAM CITY LIBRARY** AFTER CLOSING HOURS, BARBARA GORDON, LIBRARIAN AND DAUGHTER OF POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON, IS IN STITCHES...

LOOK AT THE TIME! I BETTER FINISH MY COSTUME FOR THE **POLICEMAN'S MASQUERADE BALL** TONIGHT--AND GET GOING!



SHORTLY, SHE SLIPS INTO A LARGE CLOSET WHICH SHE HAS CONVERTED INTO A DRESSING ROOM...

THE WHOLE WORLD THINKS I'M JUST A PLAIN JANE--A COLORLESS FEMALE 'BRN'! I'LL SHOW THEM A FAR MORE IMPOSING GIRL TONIGHT!



A STARTLING TRANSFORMATION...

WELL!!! THIS "**BATGIRL**" COSTUME REALLY **DOES** THINGS FOR ME! I CAN HARDLY WAIT FOR THE MID-NIGHT UNMASKING HOUR--AND THE **SHOCK** I'LL GIVE DAD!



SOON SHE IS DRIVING ALONG THE SUBURBAN HIGHWAY TOWARD THE HOTEL WHERE THE MASQUE BALL IS BEING HELD...



I MADE MY **PH.D.** AT **GOTHAM STATE UNIVERSITY**! I GRADUATED **SUMMA CUM LAUDE**! I WEAR A **BROWN BELT** AT **JUDO**! BUT TONIGHT WILL BE THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY LIFE!

NOT FAR AHEAD, ALONG THE SAME ROAD...



HERE COMES **BRUCE WAYNE** IN HIS LIMOUSINE NOW--RIGHT ON TIME!

YEAH! HE WORKS LATE AT HIS **WAYNE FOUNDATION** THE SAME NIGHT EVERY WEEK!

GLISTENING STRANDS OF GOOEY SUBSTANCE LEAP FROM THE WEAPONS OF THE **MOTH-MEN**--WRAP THE **WAYNE LIMOUSINE** IN **COCCON-LIKE FOLDS**...



WE STOPPED IT COLD! NOW LET'S **KNOCK WAYNE** THE SAME WAY!

**ZZZT!**

EVEN AS A DOOR OF THE LIMOUSINE IS OPENED AND MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE YANKED OUT..

OH!! COSTUMED MEN GANGING UP ON THAT DRIVER! I'VE GOT TO HELP HIM!

SCREEEE!



WHY--THAT'S **BRUCE WAYNE** THEY'RE ATTACKING--DADDY'S MILLIONAIRE FRIEND! HE'S ALWAYS REGARDED ME AS A MOUSEY SORT OF PERSON! I WONDER WHAT HE'D SAY IF HE KNEW WHO IT WAS COMING TO RESCUE HIM! I'LL DISGUISE MY VOICE--SO HE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE IT!



MAKE A RUN FOR IT, MR. WAYNE--BEFORE YOU GET HURT! **BATGIRL** WILL HANDLE THESE HUMAN MOTHS!

WHO'S THIS?



THAT'S A BREAK! IT'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO RUN JUST FAR ENOUGH TO CHANGE INTO MY **BATMAN** COSTUME UNOBSERVED! THAT--OF--NEW **BATGIRL** MAY NOT BE AS GOOD AS SHE THINKS SHE IS!



I'M A **FIRST KYU JUDO** EXPERT, BOYS--AS I'M WILLING TO DEMONSTRATE!

HEY!! WHATTA WE GOT HOLD OF HERE?

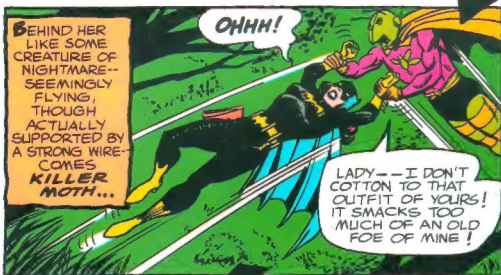
YA MEAN--WHAT'S GOT HOLD OF US!





NOW TO  
PUT THE  
FINISHING  
TOUCH--

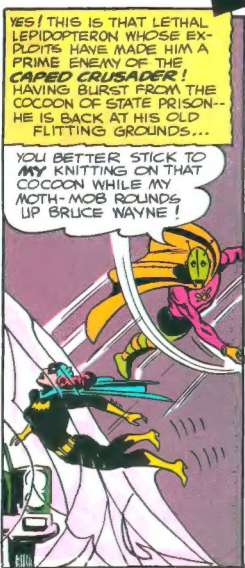
**KLUNK!**



**OH!!!**

BEHIND HER  
LIKE SOME  
CREATURE OF  
NIGHTMARE--  
SEEMINGLY  
FLYING,  
THOUGH,  
ACTUALLY  
SUPPORTED BY  
A STRONG WIRE--  
COMES  
**KILLER  
MOTH...**

LADY-- I DON'T  
COTTON TO THAT  
OUTFIT OF YOURS!  
IT SMACKS TOO  
MUCH OF AN OLD  
FOE OF MINE!



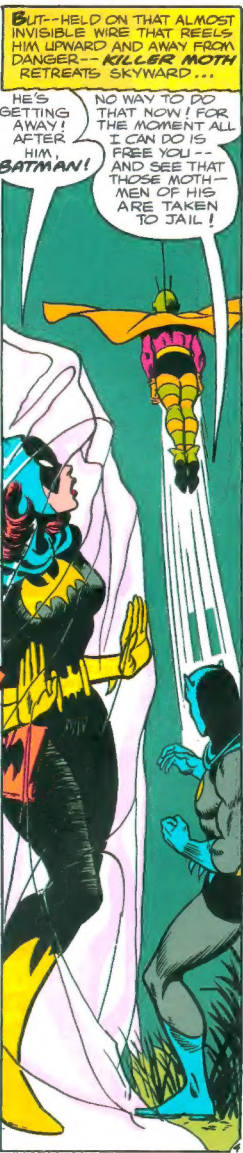
YES! THIS IS THAT LETHAL  
LEPIDOPTERON WHOSE EX-  
PLOITS HAVE MADE HIM A  
PRIME ENEMY OF THE  
**CAPE CRUSADER!**  
HAVING BURST FROM THE  
COCCON OF STATE PRISON--  
HE IS BACK AT HIS OLD  
FLITTING GROUNDS...

YOU BETTER STICK TO  
MY KNITTING ON THAT  
COCCON WHILE MY  
MOTH-MOB ROUNDS  
UP BRUCE WAYNE!



THEN--OUT OF THE NIGHT--  
TIME DARKNESS A MIGHTY  
FIST SWINGING LIKE A  
SLEDGEHAMMER...

STUCK FAST--  
CAN'T GET  
LOOSE--

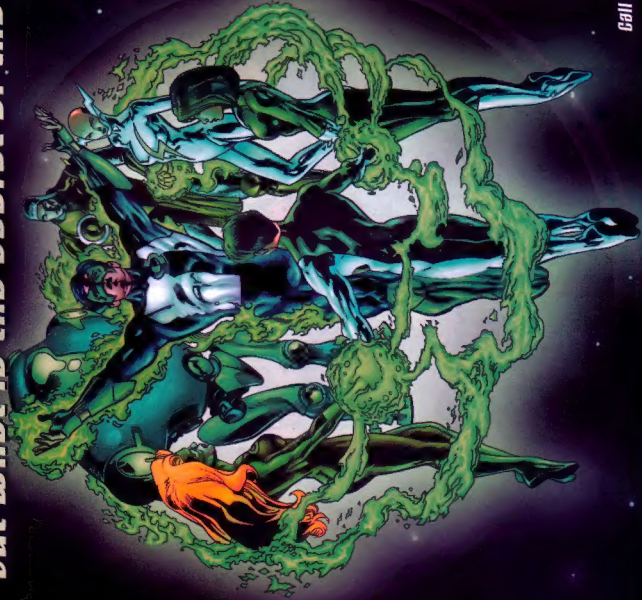


BUT--HELD ON THAT ALMOST  
INVISIBLE WIRE THAT REELS  
HIM UPWARD AND AWAY FROM  
DANGER-- **KILLER MOTH  
RETREATS SKYWARD...**

HE'S  
GETTING  
AWAY!  
AFTER  
HIM,  
**BATMAN!**

NO WAY TO DO  
THAT NOW! FOR  
THE MOMENT ALL  
I CAN DO IS  
FREE YOU--  
AND SEE THAT  
THOSE MOTH-  
MEN OF HIS  
ARE TAKEN  
TO JAIL!

**THEY ARE ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN EARTH AND OBLIVION...  
But what is the Secret of the New Green Lantern Corps?**



**GREEN LANTERN  
CIRCLE OF FIRE**

**THE FLAMES BURN BRIGHT  
THIS AUGUST IN**

**GREEN LANTERN: CIRCLE OF FIRE #1**

**Green Lantern • Atom Strange #1**

**Green Lantern • Atom #1**

**Green Lantern • Firestorm #1**

**Green Lantern • Power Girl #1**

**Green Lantern • Green Lantern #1**

**GREEN LANTERN: CIRCLE OF FIRE #2**

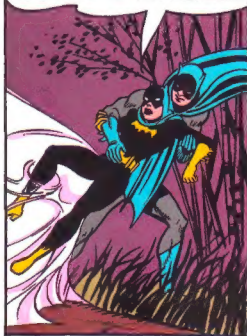
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HER EYES SPARKLE ! HER BREATH COMES FASTER ! HER HEART THUMPS WITH ALARMING SPEED ! BABS GORDON IS HAVING THE TIME OF HER LIFE -- FULLY ALIVE TO THIS NEW EXCITEMENT AND DANGER -- AND LOVING IT ! ...

**BATMAN-- BRUCE WAYNE** IS IN DEADLY DANGER ! THOSE MOTH-MEN WERE ABOUT TO BEAT HIM UP WHEN IT HAPPENED ALONG ! **KILLER MOTH** IS BOUND TO TRY AGAIN ...



I'LL TAKE PERSONAL CHARGE OF BRUCE WAYNE, MA'AM ! BUT WHO ARE **YOU ?** HOW COME YOU'RE WEARING THAT-- THAT **BATGIRL** COSTUME ?

I WAS GOING TO THE POLICE-MEN'S BALL-- BUT I CAN'T NOW ! MY COSTUME'S A **MESS** ! AS FOR MY SECRET IDENTITY--I'LL EXCHANGE MINE FOR YOURS...



NO DEAL ! I THOUGHT NOT !

FOR ALL I KNOW THIS MARKS THE DEBUT AND FAREWELL APPEARANCE OF **BATGIRL** ! IT WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED...

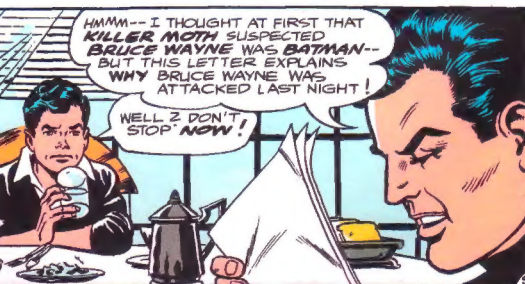


NEXT DAY, DR. BARBARA GORDON TRIES TO LOSE HERSELF IN THE MUNDANE WORLD OF THE LIBRARY...

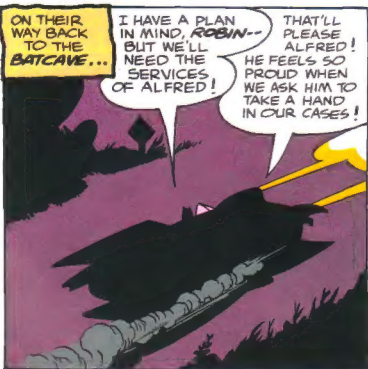
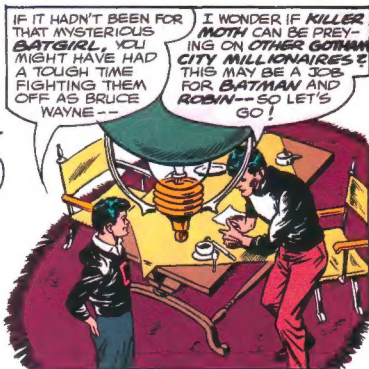


I ALMOST WISH I'D NEVER MADE THAT **BATGIRL** COSTUME ! NOW MY LIFE SEEMS EMPTY AND HUMDRUM ! I HOPE **BATMAN** IS GUARDING BRUCE WAYNE -- AND I WISH I WERE THERE TO HELP ...

**BATMAN**, OF COURSE, IS BRUCE WAYNE -- AND ON THIS SAME MORNING HE IS READING HIS MAIL WHEN ...







NOT LONG AFTER, IN **MOTH MANSION...**

**SO!** BRUCE WAYNE ADVISES ME HE WON'T PAY! HE'S GOING TO STAY PUT IN HIS HOUSE-- SURROUNDED BY THE POLICE! I WARNED HIM THAT TO TIP OFF THE COPS WOULD MEAN HIS DEATH--

AND THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GONNA BE-- **eh, KILLER?**

**LARVA, YOU AND PUPA** KEEP AN EYE ON WAYNE MANSION! SOONER OR LATER, THOSE COPS WILL FINALLY LEAVE! WE'LL MOVE IN WHEN THEY GO! WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO BRUCE WAYNE WILL GUARANTEE US FULL COOPERATION FROM THOSE OTHER MILLIONAIRES STILL ON THE LIST!

NOW BEGINS FOR THE TWO **MOTH-MEN** A PERIOD OF UN-RELAXING VIGILANCE...

WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR THREE DAYS-- AND HAVEN'T SIGHTED A SINGLE COP! BUT BRUCE WAYNE KEEPS HIMSELF HOLED UP IN THE HOUSE!

HE WAS BLUFFIN' ABOUT CALLING IN THE COPS! IT'S TIME WE REPORTED TO **BOSS-MOTH!**



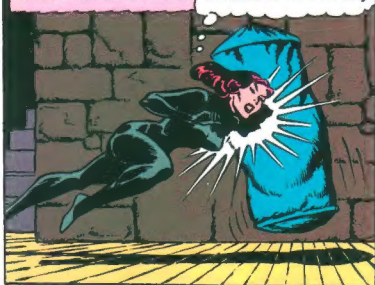
DURING THESE SAME DREARY DAYS OF WAITING, BARBARA GORDON IS ALSO MARKING TIME. BUT HER **NIGHTS** ARE FILLED WITH ACTIVITY...

**SIGH!** I SUPPOSE I'LL NEVER USE IT-- BUT I CAN DREAM... AND THIS NEW **BATGIRL** COSTUME WILL BE READY... JUST IN CASE...



AFTER HOURS, IN THE BASEMENT STOREROOM OF THE LIBRARY, SHE KEEPS HERSELF IN FIGHTING SHAPE...

I'M STRONGER AND HARDER THAN I'VE EVER BEEN, THANKS TO MY SPECIAL PROTEIN DIET AND INTENSIVE EXERCISE!



BUT--ALAS FOR DREAMS AND EXPECTATIONS OF HIGH ADVENTURE!-- CRASS EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES MUST ALWAYS TAKE PRECEDENCE.

THIS RARE EDITION OF THE **BAYPSALM BOOK** WHICH BRUCE WAYNE HAS BEEN AFTER ME TO GET HIM JUST ARRIVED SPECIAL DELIVERY! HE COLLECTS RARE BOOKS-- AND SOMETIMES MY CONTACTS HELP LOCATE THEM FOR HIM!



IT'S AFTER HOURS! I'LL  
 DRIVE OUT TO WAYNE  
 MANOR, TONIGHT AND  
 GIVE IT TO HIM PERSONALLY!  
 THIS BOOK IS MUCH TOO  
 VALUABLE TO LEAVE  
 LYING ABOUT! \*

**\*EDITOR'S NOTE:** IN 1947  
 A PERFECT COPY OF THIS  
 BOOK BROUGHT \$151,000 AT  
 AUCTION--THE THIRD HIGHEST  
 PRICE EVER PAID FOR A BOOK  
 UP TO THAT TIME!

AND SO AS THE MOON PEEPS  
 DOWN THROUGH THE TREES  
 ON THE WAYNE ESTATE, AN  
 HOUR LATER...

THAT  
 SOUNDED LIKE  
 A--**GUNSHOT!**

**KA-BAMM!**

RACING TO THE WINDOW, THE  
 GIRL LIBRARIAN FREEZES AS  
 SHE SEES...

**BRUCE  
 WAYNE--  
 MURDERED!**

**BRUCE WAYNE DEAD?!**  
 FOR HIS DEFIANCE OF  
**KILLER MOTH**, HE HAS  
 APPARENTLY PAID THE  
 SUPREME PENALTY!  
 BUT KEEP READING... FOR  
 THE UNEXPECTED DEVELOP-  
 MENTS THAT ARE SOON TO  
 SHAKE **BATGIRL** DOWN TO  
 HER PRETTY TOES!

**BAM! POW!**

THE **CAPED CRUSADER**  
 AND HIS ALLIES  
 TAKE ON CRIME IN...

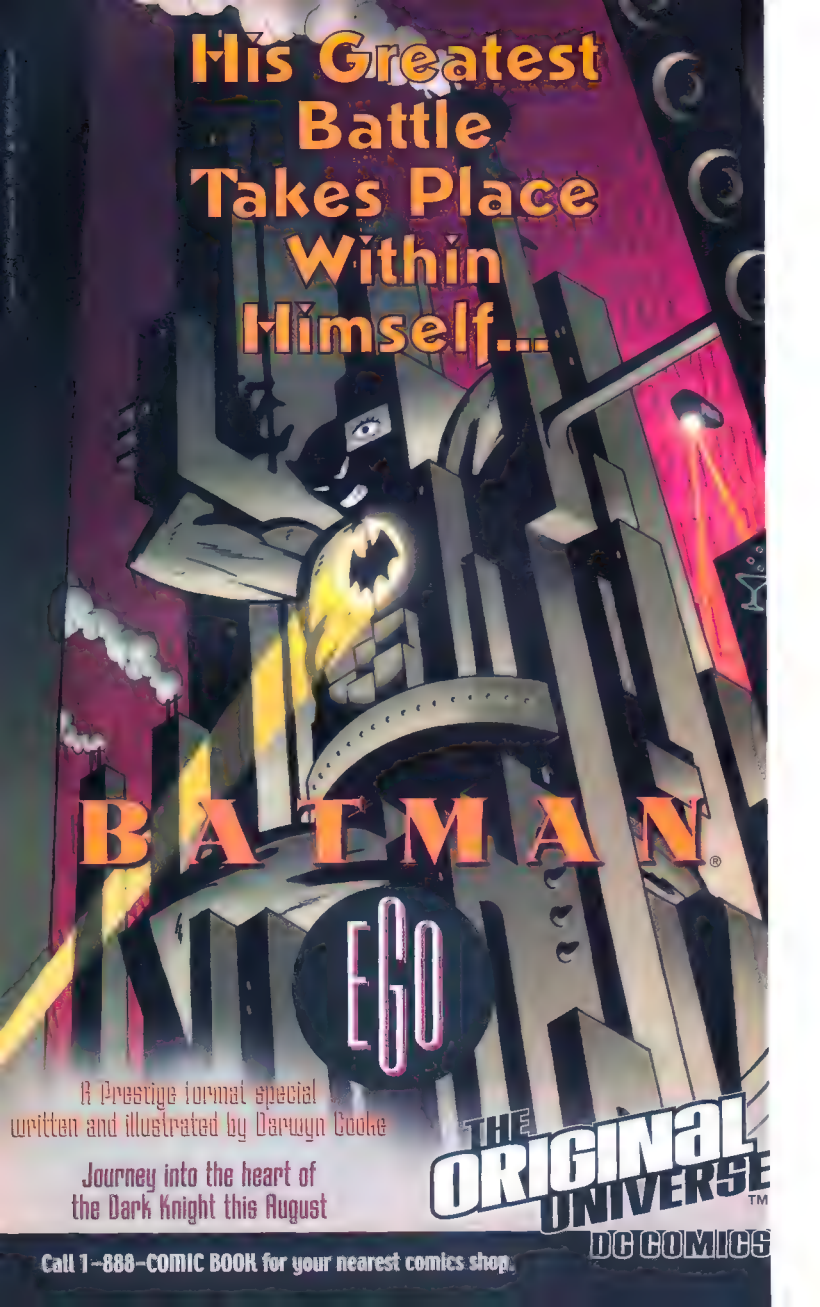
FEATURING  
**BATGIRL! ALFRED!  
 BAT-MITE!**

**BATMAN**  
 IN THE SIXTIES



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Takes Place  
Within  
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# MILLION DOLLAR DEBUT of BATGIRL--

PART  
2

SURGING FURY FILLS THE HEART OF THE LIBRARIAN EVEN AS TEARS BRIM OVER IN HER EYES! SHE HAS WORKED FOR THIS MOMENT WHEN SHE CAN ONCE AGAIN APPEAR AS BATGIRL-- BUT NOW ALL THE PLEASURE HAS GONE OUT OF IT!



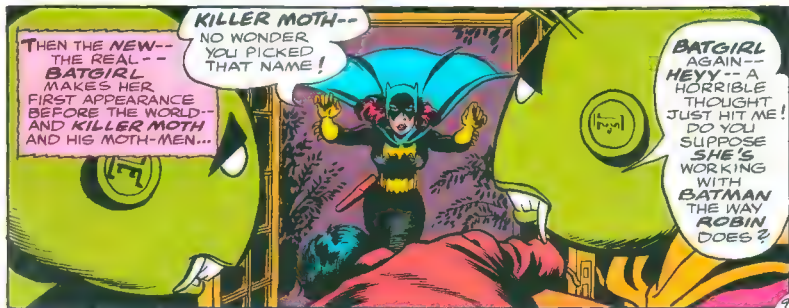
AS HER HANDS HIT THE ROLLED BRIM OF HER BERET, BRINGING IT DOWN OVER HER FACE AND NECK...

...SHE TOUCHES HER BOOTS, ROLLING UP THEIR FLAPS...

...HER FINGERS PULL AT HER SKIRT-- WHICH REVERSES AND BECOMES A CAPE...



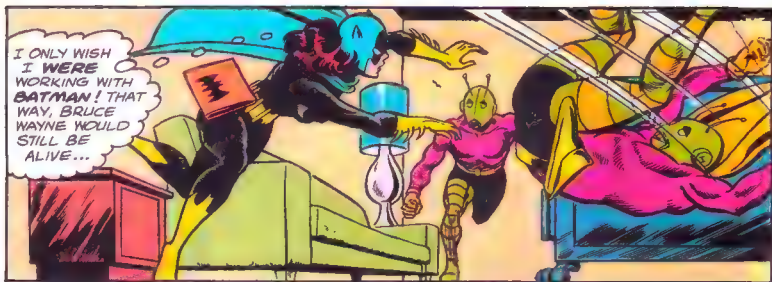
...AND HER HANDBAG REVERSES ITSELF TO FORM HER SPECIALLY-DESIGNED WEAPONS BELT...



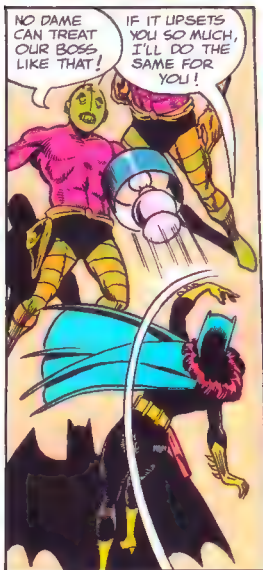
THEN THE NEW--  
THE REAL--  
BATGIRL  
MAKES HER  
FIRST APPEARANCE  
BEFORE THE WORLD--  
AND KILLER MOTH  
AND HIS MOTH-MEN...

KILLER MOTH--  
NO WONDER  
YOU PICKED  
THAT NAME!

BATGIRL  
AGAIN--  
HEY-- A  
HORRIBLE  
THOUGHT  
JUST HIT ME!  
DO YOU  
SUPPOSE  
SHE'S  
WORKING  
WITH  
BATMAN  
THE WAY  
ROBIN  
DOES?



I ONLY WISH I WERE WORKING WITH BATMAN! THAT WAY, BRUCE WAYNE WOULD STILL BE ALIVE...



NO DAME CAN TREAT OUR BOSS LIKE THAT!

IF IT UPSETS YOU SO MUCH, I'LL DO THE SAME FOR YOU!



I BET THAT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE FALLEN FOR A WOMAN!

KLOONK



CONCEALED IN THE DARK SHADOWS OF THE ROOM, BATMAN AND ROBIN STARE AT EACH OTHER IN INCREASING DISMAY...

HOLY INTERFERENCE! SHE'S RUINING ALL OUR PLANS! BESIDES--SHE MAKES TERRIBLE PUNS!

STILL--WE CAN'T LET BATGIRL FIGHT OUR BATTLES, NOW CAN WE?



SO NOW--AS BATGIRL SLAMS A THUG SIDWAYS...

READY, ROBIN--GO!



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GUARDIAN OF GOTHAM  
RISES AGAIN!

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# WHERE DO GODS GO WHEN THEY DIE?



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by Mark Waid, Bryan Hiett, and Paul Kieary

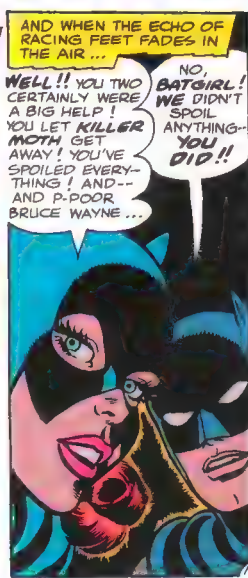
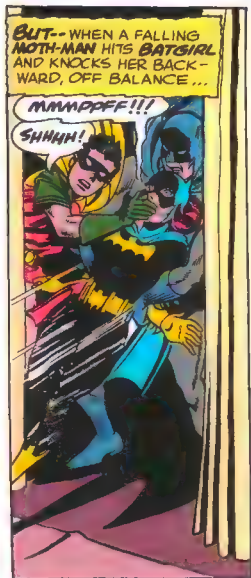
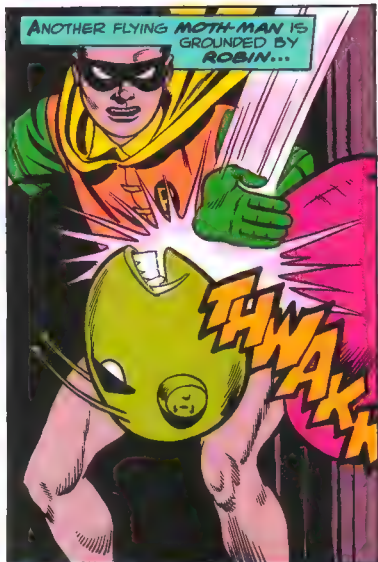
Redefining power this September

## JLA Heaven's Ladder

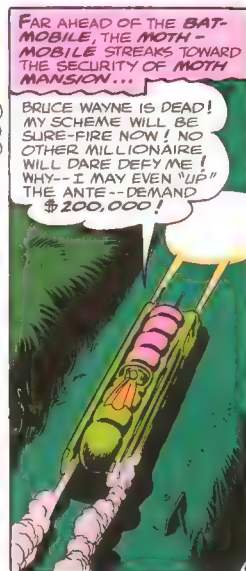
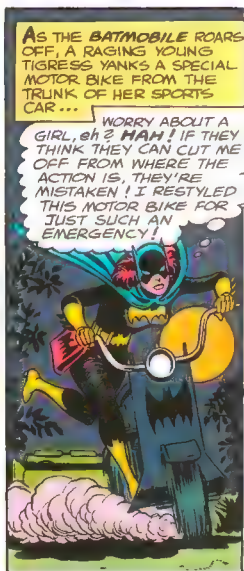
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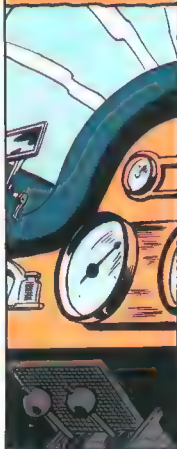
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ON THE DASHBOARD OF THE **BATMOBILE** A TRACKING NEEDLE QUIVERS--TURNS--FOLLOWING THE MOVEMENTS OF THE **MOTHS**...



WHILE ON THE **BAT-BIKE**, MULTI-COLOR LIGHTS FLARE AND DIM--INDICATING TO THE **MASKED MAIDEN** WHAT ROAD TO FOLLOW IN HER SECRET PURSUIT...



OUTSIDE **MOTH MANSION**, SOON AFTERWARD...

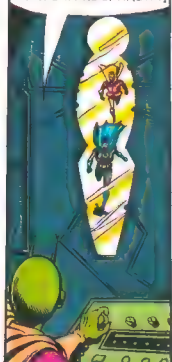
NOW LET'S SINGE THAT **KILLER MOTH** WITH A FEW CHOICE PUNCHES!

IT'LL BE A PLEASURE, I "MOTH" SAY!



FROM ABOVE, KEEN EYES WATCH THE **DYNAMIC DUO** RACE INTO THE **LEPIDOPTERAL LAIR**...

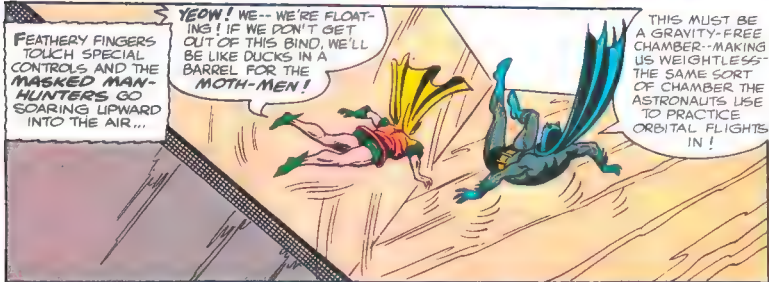
I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW **BAT-MAN** AND **ROBIN** GOT INVOLVED IN THIS CAPER, BUT I'M READY FOR THEM WITH A TASTE OF **MOTH** HOSPITALITY!



FEATHERY FINGERS TOUCH SPECIAL CONTROLS AND THE **MASKED MAN-HUNTERS** GO SOARING UPWARD INTO THE AIR...

YEOW! WE-- WE'RE FLOATING! IF WE DON'T GET OUT OF THIS BIND, WE'LL BE LIKE DUCKS IN A BARREL FOR THE **MOTH-MEN**!

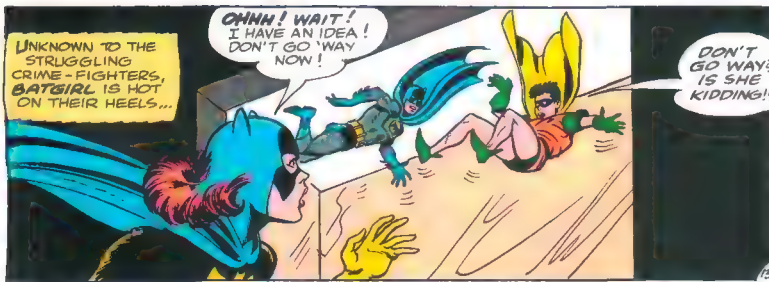
THIS MUST BE A GRAVITY-FREE CHAMBER--MAKING US WEIGHTLESS--THE SAME SORT OF CHAMBER THE ASTRONAUTS USE TO PRACTICE ORBITAL FLIGHTS IN!



UNKNOWN TO THE STRUGGLING CRIME-FIGHTERS, **BATGIRL** IS HOT ON THEIR HEELS...

OHNN! WAIT! I HAVE AN IDEA! DON'T GO 'WAY NOW!

DON'T GO 'WAY? IS SHE KIDDING!?



RACING BACK TO THE **MOTHMOBILE**, THE RESOURCEFUL GIRL REMOVES THE MAGNETIC TRACKING DEVICE PLUT UNDER ITS FENDER BY **ROBIN**.

I'LL TIE THIS MAGNET ABOUT ONE OF MY BOOTS!

MOMENTS LATER...

THE METAL BASEBOARD HEATING STRIP WILL ANCHOR ME SECURELY THROUGH THE MAGNET-- SO GRAB HOLD, **BATMAN**!

HURRY UP! I HEAR THE **MOTH-MEN** COMING TO TAKE POT SHOTS AT US!

SLIDING HER MAGNETIC BOOT ALONG THE BASEBOARD, THE **DOMINOED DARE-DOLL** WHIPS HER ARM ABOUT AND THE WEIGHTLESS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** GO FLYING FORWARD...

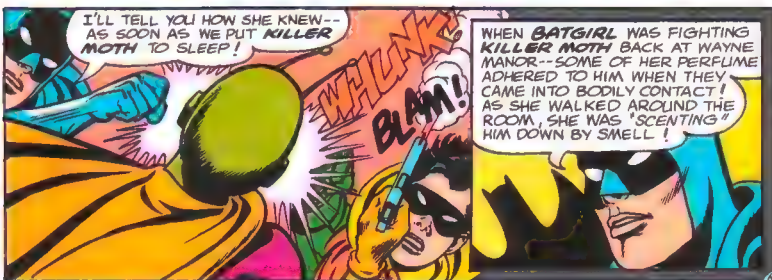
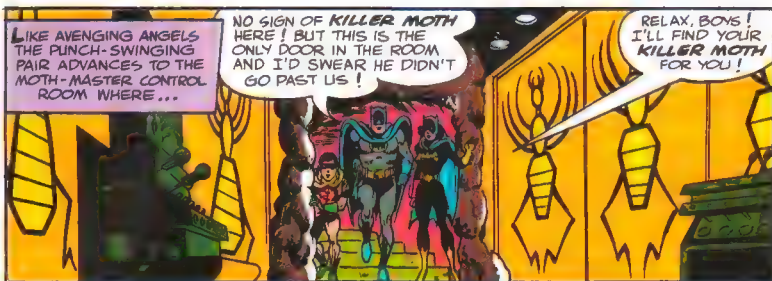
GO GET 'EM, BOYS!

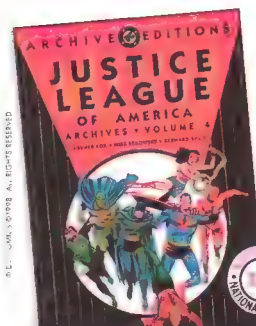
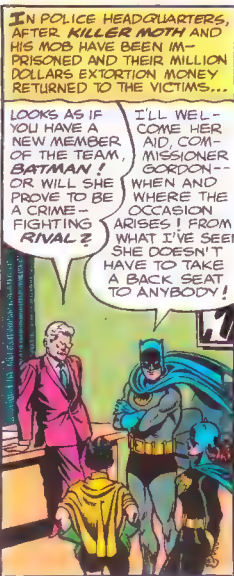
SAVAGE FISTS ROCK AND SOCK IN UNISON...

TAKE THIS ONE, **ROBIN**!

HE'S "TOOKEN" **BATMAN**!







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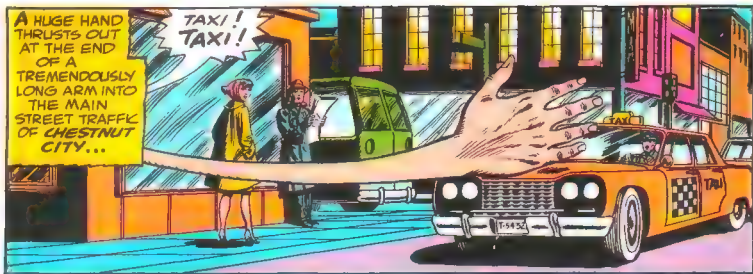


# The ELONGATED Man



IT MUST HAVE BEEN SHEER INTUITION THAT PROMPTED RALPH (ELONGATED MAN) DIBNY TO GO TO A MASQUERADE PARTY DRESSED AS A GAY NINETIES COP--FOR ON THE WAY THERE HE BECAME INVOLVED WITH A TRICKY TAXI THAT DROVE HIM STRAIGHT INTO A CROOKED MESS OF MAYHEM!

## RIDDLE OF THE SLEEPYTIME TAXI!!

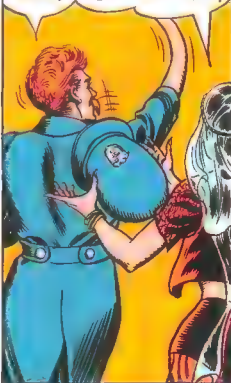


**AT THE OTHER END OF THAT ELONGATED ARM...**

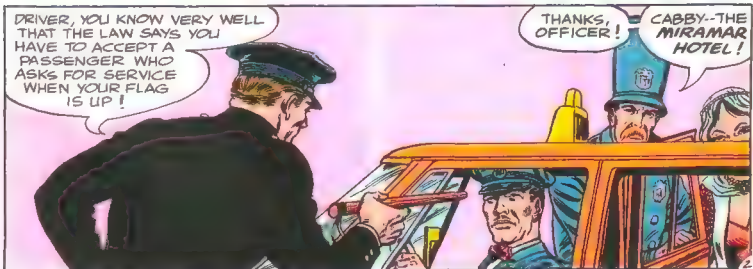
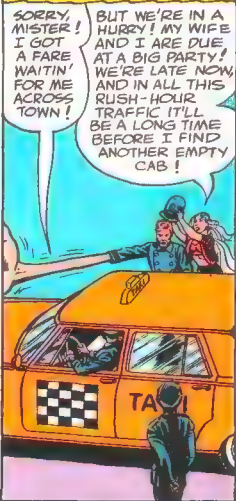


**THIS GAY NINETIES POLICEMAN COSTUME ISN'T BUILT FOR SPEEDY DRESSING -- OOPS!! GRAB MY HAT, SUE!**

**SOMETIMES I WONDER HOW YOU MANAGE TO CATCH CROOKS WHEN YOU CAN'T EVEN CATCH A TRAIN! IF YOU HADN'T MADE US MISS OUR REGULAR TRAIN, WE WOULDN'T BE THIS LATE!**



**WHEN RALPH (ELONGATED MAN) DIBNY AND HIS WIFE SUE CATCH UP TO HIS HAND..**



AS THEY SETTLE BACK  
INSIDE THE CAB...

RALPH, I **STILL**  
SAY I SHOULD  
HAVE A JEWEL  
FOR THE MIDDLE  
OF MY FOREHEAD  
TO MAKE MY  
**MAHARANE**  
COSTUME  
AUTHENTIC!

HMMM-  
HMMM...  
YAWNWN--

FINALLY, RALPH AND SUE  
ALIGHT BEFORE THE  
**MIRAMAR HOTEL**...

YAWN--  
I DOZED  
OFF IN  
THE CAB--  
JUST  
LIKE  
RALPH...

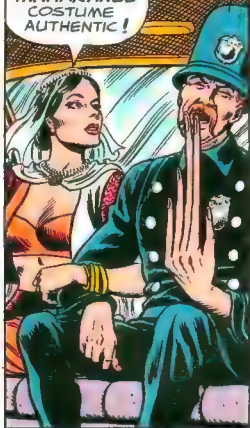
HUH--IT  
TOOK US  
AN HOUR  
TO MAKE  
THE TRIP?!  
WHAT  
KEPT  
YOU SO  
LONG,  
DRIVER?

TRAFFIC  
JAMS,  
MISTER!  
IT'S  
PLENTY  
ROUGH  
THIS TIME  
OF DAY!

OOOPS! THERE GOES RALPH'S  
MYSTERY-SMELLING NOSE  
DOING A REGULAR FANDANGO...

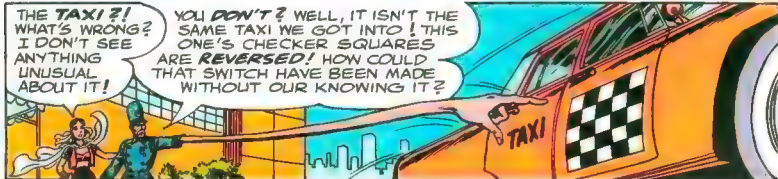
OHHH--NO! WHAT'S  
MAKING THAT SHIVERY  
SCHNOZZOLA OF YOURS  
TWITCH NOW?

THAT, TAXI,  
SUE! **LOOK**  
AT IT!



THE **TAXI**?!  
WHAT'S WRONG?  
I DON'T SEE  
ANYTHING  
UNUSUAL  
ABOUT IT!

YOU **DON'T**? WELL, IT ISN'T THE  
SAME TAXI WE GOT INTO! THIS  
ONE'S CHECKER SQUARES  
ARE **REVERSED**! HOW COULD  
THAT SWITCH HAVE BEEN MADE  
WITHOUT OUR KNOWING IT?



IT'S ODD **BOTH** OF US SHOULD  
HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP IN  
THE TAXI! AND **WHY**--  
WHEN WE WERE ASLEEP--  
DID THEY BOTHER TO  
SWITCH CARS ON US?

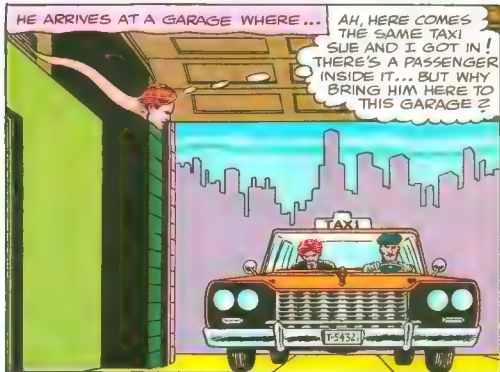
THAT'S FOR  
**YOU** TO  
ASK--AND  
**YOU** TO  
FIND OUT!  
ALL I KNOW IS  
I'M GOING TO  
THE PARTY!

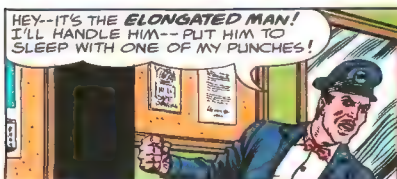
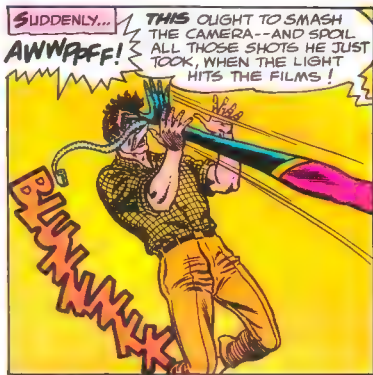
HERE, SUE-- CHECK  
THIS COSTUME!  
THE **ELONGATED**  
MAN HAS A JOB  
TO DO!

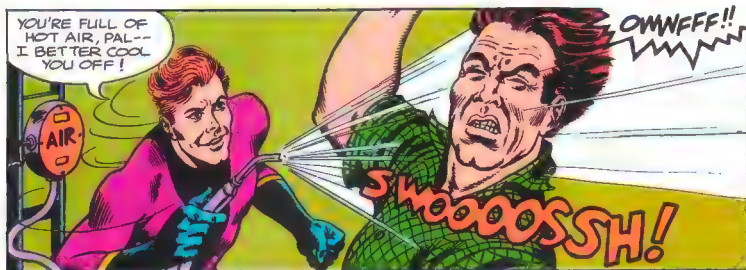
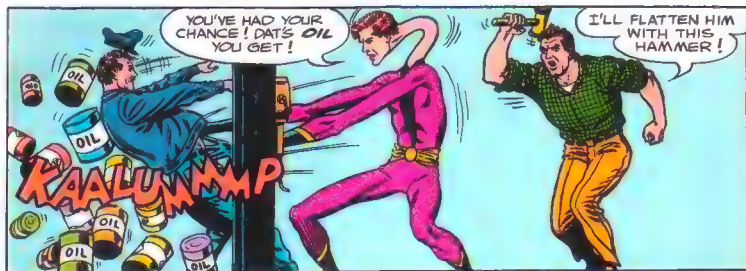
WOULDN'T YOU  
KNOW IT! HE'S  
A HUNDRED TIMES  
FASTER GETTING  
**OUT** OF HIS  
CLOTHES THAN HE  
IS GETTING **INTO**  
THEM!















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I TOO MUST HAVE A WAY TO EXPRESS MY SPECIAL THANKS, **ELONGATED MAN**. IF YOU COULD ONLY GIVE ME A HINT...

NATURALLY, I WILL TAKE NOTHING FOR MYSELF. BUT...

AND SO, WHEN RALPH FINALLY SHOWS UP AT THE MASQUERADE PARTY...

OH!! FOR ME?!

A PRESENT FROM THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR, DEAR! HE INSISTED ON GIVING YOU THIS SPECIAL JEWEL AS A GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES!

AND--OF COURSE--IN GRATITUDE FOR MY HAVING KEPT HIS DOCUMENTS TOP SECRET!

THE LEAST I CAN DO--IN THE INTERESTS OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND GOOD WILL--IS TO ACCEPT IT!

The End

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IN...



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perky, high-kicking performance, the show's ratings were on the decline. *Batman*, which had recently been one of the few prime time TV series to be shown twice a week, had worn out its welcome; it would be cancelled in the spring of 1968.

In the comics, Batgirl remained a popular and integral character well into the 1980s. It was only in the wake of *CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS* that her role in the DC Universe changed. Frank Miller and David Mazzucchelli's *BATMAN YEAR ONE* left Barbara Gordon out of the picture; it was Barbara Kesel and Rick Leonardi who reintroduced Batgirl into continuity, this time as Commissioner Gordon's niece rather than his daughter, in *SECRET ORIGINS* #20, November 1987.

Batgirl — or, rather, Barbara Gordon — would be changed further by the classic *BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE* in 1988. The story, written by Alan Moore and illustrated by Brian Bolland, involved the Joker kidnapping Commissioner Gordon and shooting and crippling Barbara. The damage was permanent. Many thought that this would be the end of her heroic career.

Instead, writer John Ostrander turned her disability into a fresh beginning. Barbara, always portrayed as brilliant, mastered computers and the nascent Internet to become the master hacker known as Oracle. After her debut in *SUICIDE SQUAD* #23, (January 1989) Oracle became a mainstay of the DC Universe and is currently one of the Birds of Prey.

Batgirl's absence from the present-day action in Gotham City has only increased demand for a new Batgirl. One was finally introduced during last year's "No Man's Land" storyline. The new Batgirl, a deadly yet troubled Asian teen, is as different from Barbara Gordon as Barbara was from the 1950s Batgirl. Despite these differences, Barbara Gordon has taken her heroic name-sake under her wing, helping her to adjust to a life of crimefighting. And for the first time, a Batgirl patrols Gotham City and stars in her own monthly comic book.

—Robert Greenberger

## **DETECTIVE COMICS #359 • JANUARY 1967**

### **"The Million Dollar Debut of Batgirl!"**

Story by Gardner Fox

Pencils by Carmine Infantino

Inks by Sid Greene

### **"Riddle of the Sleepytime Taxi!"**

Story by John Broome

Art by Murphy Anderson



Original cover illustration by Carmine Infantino and Murphy Anderson  
Batman created by Bob Kane

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